

abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required therefor (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Amendment

In the Specification:

At page 1, line 11, after "1999", please insert -- ,inactive -- .

In the Claims:

Please substitute the following claim 2 for the pending claim 2:

2. (Once Amended) A computer-implemented method for facilitating sequential stages of a research and development project, comprising the steps of:

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- (1) accessing a tool box comprising a plurality of tools wherein each of said tools is associated with one or more tasks of the sequential stages of the research and development project;
 - (2) selecting a task associated with one of the sequential stages of the research and development project;
 - (3) invoking a tool from said tool box applicable to said selected task; and
 - (4) performing said selected task using said invoked tool.

Please substitute the following claim 3 for the pending claim 3:

3. (Once Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein step (3) comprises at least one of the steps of:

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- invoking a tool for generating a topographic map;
 - invoking a tool for generating a top company table;
 - invoking a tool for generating a top inventor table;
 - invoking a tool for generating an inventors by company table;
 - invoking a tool for generating a features grouping chart;
 - invoking a tool for generating a technology classification;
 - invoking a tool for generating a Standard Industrial Codes classification;
 - invoking a tool for generating a patent count/year chart;
 - invoking a tool for generating an application count/year report;
 - invoking a tool for generating a technology by company map;
 - invoking a tool for generating a patent citation tree;
 - invoking a tool for generating a nested patent citation tree;
 - invoking a tool for generating a product/patent/revenue table;
 - invoking a tool for generating a patent/months to issue report; and
 - invoking a tool for generating document annotation.

Please substitute the following claim 10 for the pending claim 10:

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10. (Once Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein one of the stages is a preliminary assessment stage, and said selected task is related to searching a group of patents, dividing said group into subgroups according to technology classification, and mapping said technology classification to its related Standard Industrial Codes classification, and wherein said invoked tool generates a Standard Industrial Codes classification, wherein said Standard Industrial Codes classification provides information to a user to locate markets which should be assessed.

Please substitute the following claim 18 for the pending claim 18:

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18. (Once Amended) A computer-implemented method for facilitating sequential stages of a research and development project, comprising the steps of:

(1) accessing a tool box comprising a plurality of tools wherein each of said tools is associated with one or more tasks of the sequential stages of the research and development project;

(2) selecting a task associated with one of the sequential stages of the research and development project, said task comprising at least one of the tasks of:

searching a group of patents;

searching a group of company documents;

searching a group of patents and dividing said group into subgroups according to technology classification;

searching a group of patents, dividing said group into subgroups according to inventor, and dividing said subgroups according to assignee;

searching a group of patents, dividing said group into subgroups according to technology classification, and mapping said technology classification to its related Standard Industrial Codes classification;

searching a group of patents and performing a forward citation on each of said patents to create a patent citation tree;

searching a group of patents and performing a specified number of forward citations on each of said patents to create a nested patent citation tree;

searching a group of patents, dividing said group into subgroups according to patent classification, and dividing said subgroups according to assignee;

searching a group of patents and documents and sorting said group according to product attributes;

searching a group of patents, sorting said group by a period of time field, and performing calculations relating to said field; and

searching a group of patents and documents and annotating said patents and documents;

(3) invoking a tool from said tool box applicable to said selected task; and

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- (4) performing said selected task using said invoked tool.

Please substitute the following claim 19 for the pending claim 19:

19. (Once Amended) A computer-implemented system for facilitating sequential stages of a research and development project, comprising:

b3 (1) a computer based tool box comprising a plurality of tools wherein each of said tools is associated with one or more tasks of the sequential stages of the research and development project;

(2) means for invoking a tool from said tool box to perform a selected one of said tasks; and

(3) means for performing said selected task using said invoked tool.

Please substitute the following claim 20 for the pending claim 20:

20. (Once Amended) The system of claim 19, wherein said tool box comprises at least one of:

a tool for generating a topographic map;

a tool for generating a top company table;

a tool for generating a top inventor table;

a tool for generating an inventors by company table;

a tool for generating a features grouping chart;

a tool for generating a technology classification;

- B3
- a tool for generating a Standard Industrial Codes classification;
 - a tool for generating a patent count/year chart;
 - a tool for generating an application count/year report;
 - a tool for generating a technology by company map;
 - a tool for generating a patent citation tree;
 - a tool for generating a nested patent citation tree;
 - a tool for generating a product/patent/revenue table;
 - a tool for generating a patent/months to issue report; and
 - a tool for generating document annotation.
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Please substitute the following claim 27 for the pending claim 27:

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27. (Once Amended) The system of claim 19, wherein one of the stages is a preliminary assessment stage, and said selected task is related to searching a group of patents, dividing said group into subgroups according to technology classification, and mapping said technology classification to its related Standard Industrial Codes classification, and wherein said invoked tool generates a Standard Industrial Codes classification, wherein said Standard Industrial Codes classification provides information to a user to locate markets which should be assessed.
